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PROGRAM 60 Minutes

CBS Network

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SUBJECT An Interview with Terpil and Korkala

MIKE WALLACE: Those two men behind me, Frank Terpil, on the far side, and Gary Korkala are hardly household names. But their names are very familiar to law enforcement officials in New York and Washington and to various officials in Libya and Lebanon, Uganda and Syria.

First of all, they are wanted by the state of New York, for the two of them were convicted in absentia earlier this year of conspiring to sell 10,000 machine guns and 10,000,000 rounds of ammunition, plus a variety of poisons, conspiring to sell all to a couple of undercover New York police officers posing as South American revolutionaries. However, they fled the United States the day before the trial began.

Frank Terpil is also wanted by federal authorities on a variety of charges. He is an ex-CIA agent who, with his partner, Edwin Wilson, stands accused of selling to Muammar Qaddafi's Libya huge amounts of explosives, plus contracting to supply Green Berets to train terrorists in Libya. In other words, an assortment of people are looking for Terpil and Korkala right now, anxious to learn more about the various conspiracies and crimes for which they're charged. A week ago, they agreed to talk to us.

We found Frank Terpil and Gary Korkala living in Lebanon, in the city of Beirut; found them on the balcony of Korkala's apartment. They've been living in the Middle East for the past year. And when we first met them they were conspiring on yet another deal; not weapons this time. Instead, they were working on the menu for an Italian restaurant they plan to open in Beirut.

Why is it, we asked Korkala, that U. S. authorities are so intent on getting hold of Frank Terpil.